

REMARKS

Claims 16-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been canceled, claims 2, 7-15, and 22-38 have been withdrawn, claims 16-21 have been amended and claims 39-46 have been added, leaving claims 16-21 and 39-46 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures.

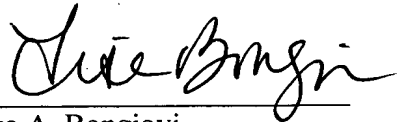
Claims 16-21 and 39-46 include the following element: “a belt forming a closed loop about the first and second sheaves wherein the door is attached to the belt; at least one drive motor integrated onto one of the sheaves such that the drive motor is drivingly coupled to the belt for moving the elevator door between the open and closed positions; and the drive motor having an axis of rotation perpendicular to a plane of the elevator door.” None of the cited references teach or disclose the combination of these elements.

In particular, the Examiner had previously used the Aulanko et al. (U.S. 5,665,944) (“Aulanko”) reference for teaching a flat motor integrated onto a sheave. However, Aulanko is directed to an elevator hoistway motor and thus, there are multiple ropes that are used to move the elevator through the hoistway. With an elevator hoistway motor, multiple ropes are required for safety reasons. If one rope breaks, there needs to be other ropes that continue to support the elevator. As such, a person skilled in the art would not use belts in place of the ropes using the Aulanko motor because the use of multiple belts would make the motor wide and the motor would not longer be “flat” as taught by Aulanko. Thus, the Aulanko reference teaches away from the claimed language because ropes are required for the Aulanko motor to be flat. Accordingly, there is no reference that has been cited that teaches at least one drive motor integrated onto one of the sheaves such that the drive motor drivingly coupled to the belt for moving the elevator door between the open and closed positions. In addition, there is no reference that teaches the drive motor having an axis of rotation perpendicular to a plane of the elevator door. Thus, claims 16-21 and 39-46 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
Lisa A. Bongiovi
Registration No. 48,933

Otis Elevator Company
Ten Farm Springs
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 676-5760